

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1901

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP, UK, NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES OF NATO DEFENSE POLICY: AIRCRAFT SURVIVAL

MEASURES IN THE UK AND STATUS OF UK ANTI-ARMOR PLANNING

REF: A. DPC/D(73)30, 26 FEB 74

B. AC/281-N(74)3, 4 MAR 74

C. USNATO 1631

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS VISIT APRIL 2 OF MEMBERS OF US
MISSION AND UK MISSION TO MOD LONDON. UK WILL COMPLETE NATIONAL
STUDY ON AIR DEFENSE OF THE UK IN AUGUST, INCLUDING ANALYSIS
OF SOVIET MEDIUM BOMBER THREAT AND UK AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES THAT
CAN BE USED AS BASIS FOR UK SHELTER STUDY. UK PROGRESS REPORT
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ON SHELTER STUDY TO NATO IN LATE APRIL WILL OUTLINE CURRENT WORK AND
INDICATE THAT FINAL REPORT WILL BE READY FOR CONSIDERATION BY
MINISTERS IN DECEMBER. THIS REPORT PLUS F-111 SHELTERS SHOULD
PREPARE THE WAY FOR PROGRAM ACTIONS FOR FIGHTERS AIRCRAFT SHELTERS

EARLY IN 1975. UK ANTI-TANK PLANNING REMAINS INCOMPLETE, BUT WILL BE BASED ON SWINGFIRE PLUS 2000 METER (PROBABLY MILAN) AND 300 METER WEAPONS. GENERAL DISCUSSION OF NEED FOR GREATER COOPERATION IN NATO, ESPECIALLY IN WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT RAISED QUESTION OF POSSIBLE US PURCHASE OF UK RAPIER AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, WITH UK, IN TURN, PURCHASING US AIRCRAFT OR OTHER WEAPONS. END SUMMARY

1. DURING MEETING WITH UK OFFICIALS AT MOD LONDON ON APRIL 2, UK MISSION FIRST SECRETARY (LEDLIE) AND US DEPTUY DEF ADVISOR (B/G BOWMAN) BRIEFED ASST UNDER SECRETARY JAMES ON BASIC ISSUES FOLLOW-UP WORK PROGRAM AND REQUIREMENT FOR UK TO CONDUCT STUDY ON AIRCRAFT SHELTERS FOR THE UK (REF A AND B). JAMES INDICATED THAT POLITICAL PROBLEM REMAINED DUE TO POSSIBLE PUBLIC REACTION TO ANY EXPANDED SHELTER PROGRAM IN THE UK AND THAT ANY FURTHER REQUEST FOR UK TO SPONSOR SHELTERS SHOULD NOT COME IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. IT WILL SOON BE APPARENT THAT F-111 SHELTERS ARE MORE THAN WEATHER SHELTERS, AND UK GOVT WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY EXPLAINING WHAT HAS CHANGED THAT MAKES SHELTERS NECESSARY. US REP POINTED OUT THAT THE INCREASED NUMBER OF SOVIET SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES MIGHT FREE MEDIUM BOMBER FORCE FOR CONVENTIONAL ATTACKS AGAINST UK AIRFIELDS AND EMPHASIZED NEED FOR A CONTINUING, INCREMENTAL SHELTER CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.

2. THE ASST CHIEF SCIENTIST (OPERATIONS, RAF) (ANDREWS) INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE VALUE AND NEED FOR SHELTERS. HE DESCRIBED THE UK NATIONAL AIR DEFENSE STUDY NOW IN PROGRESS WHICH SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST. THIS STUDY ANALYZES THE SOVIET MEDIUM BOMBER THREAT AND UK DEFENSE CAPABILITIES AGAINST THAT THREAT. HE STATED THAT THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE UK AIR DEFENSE STUDY COULD BE PUT TOGETHER WITH INFORMATION ON US AIR FORCE DEPLOYMENTS TO FORM NECESSARY STUDY ON SHELTERS IN THE UK FOR REPORT TO NATO IN DECEMBER. ANDREWS FEELS THAT THE SHELTER LEVEL MIGHT BE LOWER THAN ON THE CONTINENT SINCE WARNING TIME WOULD BE GREATER AND AS MANY AIR DEFENSE AIRCRAFT AS POSSIBLE WOULD BE SCRAMBLED. UK REPS EMPHASIZED NEED FOR POINT
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DEFENSE AGAINST LOW LEVEL ATTACK AND BRIEFED ON PERFORMANCE OF RAPIER (COMPLETE BRIEFING RECENTLY GIVEN TO DOD IN WASHINGTON).

3. IN LATER DISCUSSIONS, US REP POINTED OUT NEED TO TIE NATO TOGETHER IN A UNIFIED ALLIANCE AS OPPOSED TO A COLLECTION OF 15 NATIONS EACH GOING ITS OWN WAY AND SUGGESTED THAT A UK AIR DEFENSE STUDY THAT DID NOT TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF US BASES AND POSSIBLE US CONTRIBUTIONS TO AIR DEFENSE WOULD NOT BE VERY REALISTIC. JAMES AGREED THAT IT WAS TIME FOR A COMPLETE CHANGE OF ATTITUDE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION IN ALL PHASES OF NATO DEFENSE EFFORTS. JAMES SUGGESTED THAT PROGRESS WITH F-111 SHELTERS PLUS REPORT TO NATO IN DECEMBER ON SHELTERS

IN THE UK
COULD SERVE TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE UK TO SPONSOR ADDITIONAL
SHELTERS IN EARLY 1975.

4. DURING MEETING WITH HEAD DEFENSE SECRETARIAT 7 (QUINLAN)
AND MEMBERS OF ARMY GENERAL STAFF, UK AND US NATO MISSION
REPS DISCUSSED NATO BASIC ISSUES ANTI-ARMOR STUDY AND NECESSARY
FOLLOW-ON PROGRAMS INCLUDING RESULTS OF MEETING WITH FRG IN
BONN (USNATO 0860, 1003, 1163, & 1332). THE UK HAS NOT MADE A
DECISION ON EXACT NUMBER OF

ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS, BUT HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON 1 APRIL
PRODUCED SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES. ANTI-ARMOR PLANNING WILL
BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

RANGE	WEAPON	NUMBERS
4000 METERS	SWINGFIRE	PROBABLY 16/BRIGADE
2000 METERS	(PROBABLY MILAN)	CONSIDERING 9 OR 27/BN
300 METERS	?	12/18/PLATOON

UK DOES NOT SEE NEED FOR 1000 METER RANGE WEAPON SUCH AS
DRAGON AND BELIEVES THAT 300 METER RANGE IS VERY IMPORTANT
BECAUSE OF LOW VISIBILITIES, HILLY, WOODED TERRAIN, ETC. IN
EUROPE. UK ALSO FEELS THAT US ANTI-ARMOR SYSTEMS REQUIRE
EXCESSIVE MANPOWER TO OPERATE.
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5. THROUGHOUT DISCUSSIONS, UK REPS REFERRED TO IMPROBABILITY
THAT UK WOULD BE ABLE TO BUY EQUIPMENT THAT WAS NOT PRODUCED
IN THE UK. US REP RAISED QUESTION OF COOPERATION IN WEAPONS
DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT WITH JAMES AND AIR VICE MARSHALL
DAVIES. ALL AGREED ON THE NEED FOR SOME MEANS OF DIVIDING
DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO REDUCE
DUPLICATION AND PROVIDE BASIS FOR STANDARDIZATION. UK
REPS SUGGESTED US PURCHASE OF RAPIER AS ONE MEANS OF
MAKING POSSIBLE UK PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT OR OTHER SYSTEMS
IN THE US.
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